

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-21 are active in this case. Claims 1, 3, 4, 13, 16, 17, 20 and 21 have been amended, and support for the amendment is found in original Claim 2. Claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment. Since all elements of the claims were either earlier claimed or discussed as examined, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter the amendment on the record. Further, the Applicants note that entry of the amendment will place the application in better form for appeal. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action Claims 1, 13, 16, 17, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Noah ("The Integration of the World Wide Web and Intranet Data Resources", 31st Annual Hawaii Intl. Conf. System Sciences, vol. 4, Jan. 6-9, 1998, pp. 496-502) in view of Amstein et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,793,966, hereinafter Amstein).

It is noted that specific rejections to dependent Claims 2-12, 14, 15, 18, and 19 were not provided in the Office Action mailed June 17, 2004. Therefore, in light of the omission of the specific rejection to dependent Claim 2 and a review of the prior art, previously presented Claim 2 is believed to contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Claims 1, 13, 16, 17, 20, and 21 have been amended to include the subject matter of previously presented Claim 2, and are believed to be allowable. Claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Briefly recapitulating, a meta-data registration method as in amended Claim 1, detects at least one of a MIME format and a data name extension, selects a procedure from a plurality of procedures stored in advance which correspond to at least one of a MIME format and a

data name extension, and then the selected procedure generates meta data which is registered into a Web server. Amended Claim 1 includes the subject matter of original Claim 2 and further describes each procedure as “containing information for specifying formats of the meta-data to be generated according to the corresponding MIME format or extension, and each procedure being designed to generate names and values of the meta-data in formats specified by said information.” Independent Claims 13, 16, 17, 20 and 21 also include the limitation discussed above.

Noah is directed to a search platform that generates and manages descriptive meta-data associated with “content objects” such as text, graphics, video, etc. and uses this meta-data as a basis for automated hyperlinking.¹ Amstein is directed to a client/server system that allows for the creation and maintenance of an online service using a client system including operations to create and otherwise maintain meta-data.² However, neither Noah nor Amstein, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest that a procedure is selected from a plurality of procedures and each procedure contains “information for specifying formats of the meta-data to be generated according to the corresponding MIME format or extension,” and is “designed to generate names and values of the meta-data in formats specified by said information,” as in amended Claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that amended Claim 1 is patentably distinguished over the cited references of Noah and Amstein, and it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Likewise, since amended independent Claims 13, 16, 17, 20 and 21 include the same limitation, these claims are also believed to be allowable over Noah and Amstein for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to amended Claim 1. Accordingly, dependent Claims 3-12, 14, 15, 18, and 19 are also believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as the amended independent claims from which they depend.

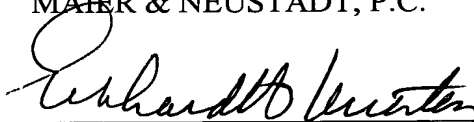
¹ Noah, Abstract.

² Amstein, column 9, lines 37-41 and column 10, lines 46-61.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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